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A Life Preserver of Sheet Metal.
Metal swimming plates have made their appearance in the field of life preservers. They consist of metal parts put together just like two tin pie plates soldered with their faces joining, allowing the space between them as a dead air chamber, says the Popular Science Monthly. The advantage of these plates lies in the fact that they will not rot or crumble like a cork life preserver. A properly applied paint prevents rusting, and they are always ready for use. They do not have to be inflated like the water wings which are used by some swimmers. There is no danger of leaks or punctures, and the total weight of the appliance is about three pounds. The plates are not uncomfortable to wear, and they allow a free arm movement to the swimmer. Three of the plates are joined together with a web band having a shoulder strap which buckles about the body under the arms, with two plates on the back and one on the chest. Small wire loops make the joinings.

Magicians of the Pen.
While W. W. Jacobs confesses that he often sits, pen in hand, a whole morning without putting a solitary word on paper, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle has written a story of 12,000 words without once leaving his desk. Even such a painstaking writer as the late R. L. Stevenson had his spasms of lightning work, in one of which he completed his famous "Jekyll and Hyde" story within seven days, and Hall Caine wrote the first and last lines of his "Life of Coleridge" in three weeks. While Sir J. M. Barrie counts 500 or 600 words a "good day's work," H. G. Wells has often written 10,000 words between breakfast and bed, and Mrs. L. T. Meade has produced 20,000 words in a busy day.

The late Andrew Lang, when in the mood, has more than once written 5,000 words of a book between breakfast and a late luncheon, and it is said that S. R. Crockett wrote the last half of "The Stickit Minister" in forty hours.—London Answers.

Potato Culls.
Among the many products which are being successfully dried at present and which otherwise would go to waste are potato culls—that is, potatoes which have been injured in digging and therefore are below market standards. At least 10 per cent of the potato crop falls into this class. This percentage is now being dried and converted into potato flour.
A pound of dried mixed vegetables made up of carrots, turnips, onions, cabbage and potatoes, prepared especially for soup, is sufficient for sixty or more adults. A barrel of the same vegetables weighing 100 pounds provides enough soup stock for nearly 6,000 persons. The raw vegetables which go to make up this mixture before drying fill thirty barrels and weigh in the neighborhood of 1,500 pounds.—Popular Science Monthly.

Mozart's Music.
A recent biographer says of Mozart that the most wonderful fact about him was that he directed his art toward success without any sacrifice of himself and his music was always written with regard to its effect upon the public. Somehow it does not lose by this, and it says exactly what he wishes it to say. In this he was helped by his delicate perceptions, his shrewdness and his sense of irony. He despised his audience, but he held himself in great esteem. He made no concessions that he need blush for; he deceived the public, but he guided it as well. He gave the people the illusion that they understood his ideas, while as a matter of fact the applause that greeted his works was excited only by passages which were solely composed for applause.

Grease Spots.
Grease spots can be removed with gasoline or with ether. But careful manipulation is necessary. Gasoline and ether must be kept away from any flame. Pour enough gasoline or ether on a tablespoonful of starch to make a paste, place the paste on the under side of the spot and allow to remain several minutes. Brush off the starch when it is dry. Ether evaporates more rapidly than gasoline and leaves no unpleasant odor.

Names Ending In "Velt."
Veldt is a changed form of the Dutch "veld," the same as our English word "field." It means simply open ground, or prairie. Westervelt means west field; Roosevelt, rose field; Blauevelt, blue field. There are other Dutch names ending in "velt" and many parallel names in German and other tongues.

Puzzled by His Choice.
"I can't understand it."
"What?"
"That rich man proposing marriage to her."
"Why not?"
"Well, he was introduced to my daughter the same day he met her."—Detroit Free Press.

What Hurts.
Doctor—You mustn't stay out late at night. Patient (a married man)—Is the night air bad for me? Doctor—No; it is the excitement after getting home that hurts you.—London Telegraph.

Voice of Experience.
"Your wife seems to be very angry."
"Yes."
"What's the trouble?"
"I didn't inquire. That only makes worse."

Do the right and your ideal of it grows and perfects itself. Do the wrong and your ideal of it breaks up and vanishes.—James Martineau.

Our Losses by Fire.
If one could imagine all the buildings destroyed by fire in the United States in a year arranged along one highway, each building occupying a lot sixty-five feet wide, the highway would extend from New York to Chicago, and the buildings would line it on each side. Such is the calculation of the department of the interior. Furthermore, a person traveling this scene of desolation would pass in every thousand feet a ruin from which an injured person has been taken. At every three-quarters of a mile he would encounter the remains of a human being who had been burned to death.
For years, it is estimated, the amount of actual property annually consumed by fire in this country reaches \$250,000,000, and another sum of about like proportions is spent for the maintenance of fire departments, waterworks, insurance premiums, etc., to prevent still greater losses.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Care of Silk Stockings.
Of course you know that nothing, however durable, will wear either well or long if not cared for properly. Silk stockings are no exception to this rule. They demand proper care. First and foremost, washing every time the stocking is worn is almost imperative. Perspiration tends to rot the fiber, consequently the little holes that pop out so unexpectedly. Make a lather from a mild white soap, "swish" the stockings about in it, rinse and iron when quite damp. If the stocking is only mercerized and you desire the silky sheen, then rinse in water that is a bit soapy and press damp. And a word about mending: Silk on cotton and cotton on silk is easy to remember and a deal more satisfactory in the long run.

Matter of Fact Lovemaking.
For downright prose Dr. Johnson's offer of hand and heart to his second wife would be very hard to beat. "My dear woman," said Johnson, "I am a hardworking man and withal something of a philosopher. I am, as you know, very poor. I have always been respectable myself, but I grieve to tell you that one of my uncles was hanged." "I have less money than you, doctor," demurely answered the lady, "but I shall try to be philosophical too. None of my relatives has ever been hanged, but I have several who ought to be."
"Providence and philosophy have evidently mated us, my good woman," said the doctor as he pressed a chaste salute upon the lady's brow.

The First Iron Bridge.
The first iron bridge ever erected in the world and which is in constant use at the present time spans a little river in the county of Salop on the railroad leading from Shrewsbury to Worcester, England. It was built in the year 1778 and is exactly ninety-six feet in length. The total amount of iron used in its construction was 378 tons. Stephenson, the great engineer, in writing concerning it said, "When we consider the fact that the casting of iron was at that time in its infancy we are convinced that unblushing audacity alone could conceive and carry into execution such an undertaking."

Proper Question.
The grocer was attending to his customers when a nice little boy approached the counter and asked in an innocent manner:
"Have you any dry herrings, sir, if you please?"
"Yes, my lad," answered the grocer, looking benevolently down at the youngster.
"Well, why don't you give them a drink?" said the nice boy as he fled.—London Globe.

He Meant Well.
Visitor—We would like to locate a sanitarium on your lot. Uncle Eben—Hunt all ye want to, but I don't think ye'll find one. I've lived here fifty years, been over every foot of the ground, and I ain't never run across one.—Puck.

In Certain Cases.
"Do pearls mean tears?"
"You bet they do when you don't get your wife the string of 'em she's set her heart on."—Baltimore American.

PRACTICAL HEALTH HINT.
Chronic Rheumatism.
Although acute rheumatism may occur at any age, it is more common in adolescence or in early adult life; chronic rheumatism is essentially a disease of later life. It often attacks sailors and outdoor laborers, who by exposing themselves to cold and wet or by overworking or failing to eat nourishing food.
Treatment of chronic rheumatism is very unsatisfactory; no actual cure is known, and the most that can be done is to relieve the pain and stiffness during the attacks and try to prevent or delay their recurrence.
Unless the pain is so bad as to call for an anodyne, much comfort can be obtained by rubbing and massage and the application of a hot water bag to the joints. For constitutional treatment, in addition to internal anti-rheumatic remedies, benefit sometimes comes from a sojourn at a mineral spring resort. The patient should have a simple, nourishing diet and should avoid exposure in cold and damp weather.

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"Why, Hulda, what is the matter? Is the work too hard? Or don't you like your wages?"
"De vork he be all right, an' de wages he be, too, but the beau—he moost have me."—San Francisco Chronicle.

Warning.
"He says I am the only girl he has ever loved."
"I'd beware of him."
"Why?"
"I think it dangerous to tie up for life with a man who takes the first thing that comes along."—Detroit Free Press.

How Could It Be?
First Office Boy—Wotcher doin' lookin' at the office wot fired you last week? Tryin' to git took back? Second Office Boy—Naw; I jes' dropped round to see if they was still in business.—Albany Knickerbocker Press.